

Key EPA Activities on Mercury

(04/28/03)

AGENCY MULTI-OFFICE ACTIVITIES:

1. EPA's Mercury Action Plan
The MAP is an agency-wide document that will provide a strategic framework for reducing mercury, with goals and commitments to key activities; summary information on mercury health and environmental problems; and EPA's regulatory and voluntary program activities to address mercury. Involves all EPA offices working on mercury.
2. White House Mercury Interagency Work Group:
The White House convened this IWG in response to Senator Sessions of Alabama, who is concerned about health risks associated with eating mercury-contaminated seafood from the Gulf of Mexico. The IWG will initially focus only on Gulf issues for the next 6 months. Involves all EPA offices working on mercury, including EPA's Gulf of Mexico Office.
3. Agency's Persistent, Bioaccumulative and Toxics (PBT) Program (Mercury is a key component of this program.)
PBT Monitoring Strategy
Agency-wide Mercury Website (pilot)
4. DOD's EIS for Mercury Stockpile (Interagency Workgroup involves EPA's OSW, OW, OPPT, and Office of Federal Activities.)

KEY PROGRAM-SPECIFIC MERCURY ACTIVITIES

1. OAR will propose MACT standards for mercury emissions from utilities. (Proposed standard in December 2003, final standard in December 2004)
2. OAR will finalize MACT standard for mercury emissions from chlor-alkali facilities. (Final standard in August 2003)
3. OSWER will propose MACT standard for mercury emissions from hazardous waste combustors. (Proposed standard in December 2003, final standard by June 14, 2005.)
4. OSWER's Mercury Treatability Studies Notice of Data Availability (January 2003)
5. OW will develop technical guidance for implementing the new water quality criterion for methylmercury based on fish tissue. (Outreach meetings on key concepts in the draft guidance in Spring of 2003.)

INTERNATIONAL MERCURY ACTIVITIES:

1. CEC Mercury Task Force:
- Mercury NARAP Implementation Plan (OPPT is EPA's lead)
2. UNEP Global Assessment of Mercury: (State Dept. was US lead. OIA was EPA's lead)
- Governing Council mtg in Feb. 2003 (State Dept. is US lead. OPPT/OIA EPA co-leads)
3. Great Lakes Binational Toxics Strategy (Region 5): Mercury Workgroup
4. Conference of New England Governors and Eastern Canadian Premiers (Region 1)
- Mercury Task Force